BILL: S2019-SR4
TITLE: A Resolution to Provide Alternatives to Compostable To-Go Cups
SPONSORS: Masud Tyree Lewis, First-Year Senator
DATE: April 21, 2019

Whereas, the existing compostable cups and lids provided in Dining Halls are not efficiently composted in the College's composter;

Whereas, Dining Services expends between $23,000 to $31,000 per year on compostable to-go cups and lids;

Whereas, Middlebury College is committed to sustainable operations and responsible consumption;

Whereas, a large portion of Middlebury students rely on to-go cups to transport beverages, coffee in particular, between classes and commitments;

Whereas, similar NESCAC college, Bates College offers the equivalent alternatives program;

Therefore, be it enacted…

That, the SGA will launch a Compostable Cups Alternative Program;

That, this program will be executed through Dining Services;

That, each student will be provided with one reusable sealable, thermal mug free of cost;

That, at a cost of $6 per student, the proposed mugs would cost $1500 for 2,500 mugs and $4200 for 700 mugs for each new class;

That, this amounts to yearly savings of $26,800;

That, savings made with this program will be kept in the Dining Services budget for other improvements;

That, these other improvements will be influenced by a student survey;

That, the current compostable to-go cups will be removed from all Dining Halls and retail outlets once this program launches and the cups are out of supply;

That, in the event that a student loses their first free mug, they will be expected to purchase a new one at designated retail outlets at a discounted price;

That, the mugs will be efficiently collected, reused or recycled at the end of the college years if students do not intend to keep them;

That, unlike with the to-go box system, use of other mugs will not be prohibited in dining spaces;

That, the Environmental Affairs Committee will attempt to integrate the mug's usage in retail outlets such as Crossroads Cafe and Wilson Cafe;

That, prior to its launch, this program will be piloted by the SGA Environmental Affairs Committee;

That, prior to SGA discussion, members of the SGA Environmental Affairs Committee will table daily to inform students of the mug program;

That, prior to its launch, students will be appropriately and adequately informed of this decision;

That, members of the SGA Environmental Affairs Committee will systematically gather and respond to feedback on the system up to three weeks following its launch;

That, members of the SGA Environmental Affairs Committee will take feedback into consideration and consistently work to further improve the program;

That, this program will follow this timeline:

Pilot: April 03 - April 17,
Senate Discussion Vote April 21,
Feedback Period: April 21-April 28,
Phase 1 | Addition of Mugs: Fall 2019,
Phase 2 | Removal of Cups: Fall 2019,
Final Feedback Due: October 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Masud Tyree Lewis, First-Year Senator

Leif Taranta and Divya Gudur, Co-Directors of the Environmental Affairs Committee

Emma Clinton, Raechel Zeller, Ryan Gutheil, Anna Rosen, Jiaqi Li, Mollie Ockene, Members of the Environmental Affairs Committee

Alice Butler and Gabe Desmond, Co-Managers of the Sunday Night Environmental Group

Alyssa Brown, Member of the Environmental Studies Student Advisory Council

Eva Fillion, Sustainability Communication and Outreach Coordinator with the Sustainability Solutions Lab and Office of Sustainability Integration

Luke Bazemore, Micaela Gayner, Alex Gemme, Celeste Levy, Ella Simmons, George Valentine, and Max Taxman, Board Members of the Middlebury Mountain Club

Jacob Freedman, President of WildMidd